

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PITTSBURGH, PA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JANUARY 2002

Workers in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area averaged \$17.24 per hour during January 2002, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins reported that white-collar workers averaged \$20.25 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.24 per hour and represented 25 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 20 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$11.24 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 268 firms representing 492,700 workers in the Pittsburgh, PA, metropolitan area, which includes Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. Eighty-two percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for over 80 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$24.92 per hour; registered nurses, \$21.68; and secretaries, \$14.46. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning \$17.41 per hour, truck drivers at \$13.63, and stock handlers and baggers at \$8.25. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$25.26 per hour; janitors and cleaners, \$12.69; and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$9.85.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area averaged \$18.51 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.45. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$17.04 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$12.74. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$14.15 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.92.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Pittsburgh, PA National Compensation Survey January 2002 (Bulletin 3115-10). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Philadelphia Information Office by calling (215) 597-3282. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Philadelphia by dialing (215) 597-4153 and requesting documents 9795, 9796, 9797, 9798, and 9799.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Philadelphia Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2002

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$17.24	2.5	\$16.15	3.1	\$22.57	3.3
All excluding sales	17.68	2.5	16.59	3.0	22.64	3.3
White collar	20.25	3.1	18.91	3.8	26.88	4.0
White collar excluding sales	21.51	2.9	20.23	3.6	27.07	4.0
Professional specialty and technical	26.27	3.7	24.07	5.1	33.31	3.0
Professional specialty	27.83	3.6	25.21	5.2	34.51	2.7
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	32.43	6.6	32.43	6.6	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	32.93	3.7	32.93	3.7	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	37.69	16.3	37.69	16.3	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	24.92	8.3	24.92	8.3	—	—
Natural scientists	25.20	13.9	25.20	13.9	—	—
Health related	22.03	2.5	22.03	2.6	—	—
Registered nurses	21.68	1.7	21.67	1.7	—	—
Pharmacists	29.75	7.5	29.75	7.5	—	—
Physical therapists	26.58	3.6	26.58	3.6	—	—
Therapists, n.e.c.	15.50	20.4	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	28.34	5.6	—	—	33.40	4.3
Teachers, except college and university	33.67	3.9	16.75	10.0	36.00	2.9
Elementary school teachers	36.67	2.3	—	—	37.40	2.2
Secondary school teachers	36.21	3.4	—	—	36.50	3.4
Teachers, special education	28.58	23.0	14.88	9.3	39.96	2.8
Teachers, n.e.c.	39.43	9.5	—	—	39.69	9.4
Substitute teachers	12.91	9.5	—	—	13.27	9.2
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians	32.15	12.8	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	25.30	8.4	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	16.00	7.6	14.09	7.9	—	—
Social workers	16.04	7.7	14.11	8.0	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	26.30	21.0	26.30	21.0	—	—
Editors and reporters	20.70	14.6	20.70	14.6	—	—
Technical	20.65	12.5	20.85	13.4	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	15.39	5.7	15.39	5.7	—	—
Radiological technicians	17.30	5.2	17.30	5.2	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	14.63	2.2	14.55	2.1	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	11.80	3.5	11.80	3.5	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	20.98	5.4	20.94	7.4	—	—
Drafters	23.33	10.0	23.33	10.0	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.11	4.3	26.01	4.8	26.71	6.6
Executives, administrators, and managers	28.90	5.7	28.82	6.6	29.35	6.7
Financial managers	29.93	11.9	29.93	11.9	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	32.36	8.2	32.36	8.2	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	—	—	—	—	32.46	11.6
Managers, medicine and health	26.92	4.7	26.92	4.7	—	—
Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	20.04	17.8	20.04	17.8	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	35.36	11.6	37.09	12.6	—	—
Management related	21.66	4.3	21.80	4.7	—	—
Accountants and auditors	20.74	6.3	20.65	6.9	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	20.21	13.7	20.21	13.7	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	24.31	5.5	24.31	5.5	—	—
Sales	10.89	10.3	10.83	10.5	—	—
Supervisors, sales	24.43	23.3	24.43	23.3	—	—
Sales workers, apparel	8.63	5.6	8.63	5.6	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	12.79	20.4	12.79	20.4	—	—
Cashiers	7.45	7.5	6.93	5.1	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.93	3.0	12.69	3.5	14.28	3.8
Secretaries	14.46	3.0	13.95	3.6	15.68	4.6
Stenographers	13.27	7.0	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Administrative support, including clerical —Continued						
Receptionists	\$9.80	5.6	\$9.80	5.6	—	—
Order clerks	18.37	8.1	18.37	8.1	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	10.71	11.0	10.71	11.0	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.02	4.0	12.97	4.3	—	—
Billing clerks	11.84	4.8	11.84	4.8	—	—
Telephone operators	13.81	10.3	13.81	10.3	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	13.72	6.2	13.72	6.2	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	13.33	7.0	12.54	9.4	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	12.36	10.3	12.36	10.3	—	—
General office clerks	11.79	6.0	10.94	3.8	—	—
Bank tellers	9.99	6.0	9.99	6.0	—	—
Data entry keyers	9.60	2.0	9.60	2.0	—	—
Teachers' aides	10.90	12.8	8.66	10.2	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	12.58	5.7	12.64	6.0	—	—
Blue collar	15.24	3.1	14.81	3.5	\$17.91	2.9
Precision production, craft, and repair						
Automobile mechanics	18.76	3.6	18.92	4.0	17.17	4.0
Industrial machinery repairers	16.57	3.3	16.19	3.7	—	—
Carpenters	19.69	11.5	19.69	11.5	—	—
Electricians	17.47	6.1	—	—	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	17.41	7.4	—	—	—	—
Supervisors, production	22.47	11.8	—	—	—	—
Supervisors, production	21.33	9.9	21.33	9.9	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Laundry and dry cleaning machine operators	14.05	5.6	14.05	5.6	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators	8.04	7.0	8.04	7.0	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	16.81	8.5	16.81	8.5	—	—
Assemblers	15.47	8.0	15.47	8.0	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	11.17	7.5	11.17	7.5	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	16.00	10.3	16.00	10.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	14.91	6.0	12.96	6.9	18.74	2.9
Bus drivers	13.63	10.3	13.28	10.9	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	16.93	6.2	—	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	13.92	4.4	13.92	4.4	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Production helpers	11.68	5.5	10.94	6.0	16.57	7.0
Stock handlers and baggers	10.89	14.8	10.89	14.8	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	8.25	8.6	8.25	8.6	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	16.45	10.1	16.45	10.1	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.82	6.2	9.82	6.2	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	12.52	10.3	11.49	11.9	—	—
Service						
Protective service	11.24	4.0	9.52	4.5	17.24	5.7
Police and detectives, public service	18.93	13.0	9.79	16.7	23.79	3.9
Food service	25.26	2.8	—	—	25.26	2.8
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	7.07	4.4	6.88	4.5	10.43	2.2
Waiters and waitresses	4.41	9.0	4.41	9.0	—	—
Waiters'/Waitresses' assistants	3.71	13.1	3.71	13.1	—	—
Other food service	5.61	8.3	5.61	8.3	—	—
Supervisors, food preparation and service	8.46	4.4	8.29	4.6	10.43	2.2
Cooks	10.03	10.7	10.03	10.7	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	9.35	6.1	9.36	6.3	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.61	4.8	8.61	4.8	—	—
Health service	7.86	6.2	7.40	5.8	10.50	2.1
Health aides, except nursing	9.95	2.4	9.66	2.3	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.20	5.9	10.17	5.9	—	—
Cleaning and building service	9.85	2.6	9.42	2.8	—	—
Maids and housemen	12.21	4.9	11.50	8.1	13.45	3.6
Maids and housemen	9.27	5.6	9.26	5.9	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Cleaning and building service—Continued						
Janitors and cleaners	\$12.69	5.1	\$12.12	9.2	\$13.47	3.6
Personal service	14.25	16.2	14.93	19.4	—	—
Child care workers, n.e.c.	8.98	16.5	7.31	8.4	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	7.89	16.7	6.39	7.7	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2002**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$18.51	\$9.45	\$19.87	\$15.96	\$17.29	\$15.29
All excluding sales	18.75	10.02	20.13	16.41	17.78	13.20
White collar	21.55	11.62	27.00	18.66	20.26	20.06
White-collar excluding sales	22.29	14.22	28.35	19.78	21.54	—
Professional specialty and technical	26.86	20.33	33.58	23.04	26.27	—
Professional specialty	28.48	21.72	33.33	25.04	27.83	—
Technical	21.19	13.08	35.12	17.11	20.65	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.11	—	—	26.25	26.05	—
Sales	13.46	6.83	8.28	11.20	9.64	21.56
Administrative support, including clerical	13.55	9.52	15.21	12.53	12.98	—
Blue collar	15.85	7.80	17.04	12.74	15.40	12.91
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.78	—	20.36	16.45	19.24	15.36
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.39	—	15.71	12.17	14.05	—
Transportation and material moving	15.43	8.57	16.92	11.65	15.64	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.78	7.05	13.52	9.17	11.68	—
Service	12.77	6.94	15.30	9.04	11.23	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.6	3.9	3.4	3.5	2.6	15.5
All excluding sales	2.5	4.3	3.3	3.4	2.5	13.0
White collar	3.0	5.7	5.5	3.7	3.1	28.3
White-collar excluding sales	2.9	6.4	5.4	3.4	2.9	—
Professional specialty and technical	3.9	4.8	5.4	4.8	3.7	—
Professional specialty	3.9	4.7	3.3	5.5	3.6	—
Technical	12.9	6.0	31.0	4.9	12.5	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.3	—	—	4.4	4.3	—
Sales	13.1	4.3	14.5	11.3	7.6	31.5
Administrative support, including clerical	2.8	3.3	4.2	3.5	2.9	—
Blue collar	3.1	6.3	3.3	4.2	3.1	13.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.6	—	4.2	3.9	3.8	6.3
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.4	—	6.0	7.4	5.6	—
Transportation and material moving	5.9	13.4	3.2	11.7	4.7	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.5	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.5	—
Service	4.4	3.6	5.9	4.9	4.0	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, January 2002**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$16.15	\$14.15	\$16.57	\$14.75	\$18.92
All excluding sales	16.59	14.15	17.09	15.27	19.25
White collar	18.91	17.08	19.18	17.68	20.64
White-collar excluding sales	20.23	18.06	20.50	19.59	21.24
Professional specialty and technical	24.07	23.39	24.13	21.75	25.56
Professional specialty	25.21	25.32	25.20	23.23	26.41
Technical	20.85	—	21.06	17.45	23.19
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.01	23.61	26.42	29.38	23.47
Sales	10.83	14.09	9.90	10.24	8.44
Administrative support, including clerical	12.69	11.04	12.94	12.65	13.25
Blue collar	14.81	14.88	14.78	12.95	19.09
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.92	16.94	20.10	17.81	23.16
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.05	14.56	13.99	12.67	16.69
Transportation and material moving	12.96	13.38	12.75	12.12	14.26
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.94	11.15	10.89	10.01	—
Service	9.52	6.49	10.26	9.44	11.41
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.1	6.1	3.6	4.7	4.9
All excluding sales	3.0	5.6	3.5	4.6	4.9
White collar	3.8	8.1	4.3	6.3	5.6
White-collar excluding sales	3.6	6.8	3.9	5.6	5.4
Professional specialty and technical	5.1	4.0	5.5	7.5	6.9
Professional specialty	5.2	6.0	5.7	9.4	6.5
Technical	13.4	—	14.6	9.3	20.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.8	6.4	5.5	9.2	4.2
Sales	10.5	27.0	8.9	10.7	9.9
Administrative support, including clerical	3.5	5.4	3.8	6.9	3.5
Blue collar	3.5	6.0	4.3	4.1	6.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.0	5.8	5.1	5.9	4.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.6	14.7	6.0	5.9	9.4
Transportation and material moving	6.9	3.7	10.3	11.7	19.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.0	14.2	6.8	5.7	—
Service	4.5	6.8	4.9	3.9	10.3

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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